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ABSTRACT

This report details the activities of each of the offices of the Colorado State Library and Adult Education Office, as well as accomplishments in developing a strategic plan, gaining state and federal support for technology, and improving the literacy program. Program descriptions and statistics are presented for: the State Publications Library; the State Library Information Network Connection (StateLINC); the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA); the Colorado Library Resource Sharing and Information Access Board (CLRSIAB); the Access Colorado Library and Information Network (ACLIN); the Library Research Service; the Institutional Library Service; the Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL); the Office of Adult Education; and the Standards and Assessment Resource Bank. A table summarizes the 1995-96 state budgeted funds for library program and adult education program items. An organization chart of the State Department of Education is also provided. (AEF)

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Colorado State Library & Adult Education Office

1995 Annual Report

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Dear Library and Literacy Community:

SLAEO's activities produced many successes in 1995. The hard work and dedication of the SLAEO staff resulted in benefits to Colorado's residents, libraries, and literacy programs. Elsewhere in this report you will find detail of the activities of each office. Let me highlight some of the exceptional success that have occurred.

Of enormous significance is the completion of *Strategies 2001: Strategic Plan for Library Development in Colorado.* The Colorado Council for Library Development, the official advisory body for the State Library, took the lead in developing this document, and the Long Range Planning Committee was composed of representatives of public, academic, and special libraries, and school library media centers. The resulting document has wide support from library constituent groups, as well as the State Library, the Regional Library Service Systems, and the Colorado Resource Center and Denver Public Library.

We have been on pins and needles all year over federal legislative action. The federal issues are still not resolved. The decades old Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) is probably going to be replaced by the Library Services and Technology Act. This will focus federal support on technology in libraries and services to special populations. Several block grant programs are proposed to replace the Adult Basic Education Act. We still do not know for sure what our federal funding level will be, what we will be allowed to use the funds for, or even when a decision will be made.

At the state level, 1995 saw the first state funding of ACLIN (the Access Colorado Library and Information Network). This effort was successful because so many librarians conducted demonstrations for their legislators. ACLIN continues to develop using the state funds and the large federal grants we received in 1994. Additional local nodes were installed, SuperTrainers were trained, and state government databases were added. The second year of the Colorado Legislative Database was accessed over 20,000 times. Colorado residents were better informed about their government because of this cooperative effort of the Colorado State Library, Pikes Peak Library District, and Capitol Connection, a private company.

Our State Publications Office enhanced our StateLINC service, providing interesting and useful documents from state and non-profit agencies to libraries and school media centers around the state that volunteer to participate. Our CDE Resource Center brought to fruition the Standards and Assessment Resource Bank, both on-line and in CD Rom. Emporia began the fourth Colorado class in September. CCLD awarded its second minority scholarship.

Our Adult Education office issued GED certificates and continued its superb support of workplace, refugee, and homeless literacy programs.

All news was not good, however. The Colorado Department of Corrections chose to downsize its operations and the result was the loss of some prison librarians. The worst part of this loss, of course, is the impact on inmates in state prisons.

Finally, none of the work that we do at the State Library and Adult Education Office would be successful without the support we receive from the library and literacy communities. We would like to thank the seven Regional Library Service Systems, the Colorado Resource Center at the Denver Public Library, the Resource Sharing Board, the Colorado Council for Library Development and all of its committees, the ACLIN Advisory Committee, and the Adult Literacy Commission for the time and effort you volunteer for libraries and literacy programs in the state. Thank you also to Commissioner Randall, the State Board of Education, and the staff at the Colorado Department of Education for the support they provide to us.

Sincerely,

Nancy M. Bolt
Assistant Commissioner
Libraries and Adult Education

State Publications Library

The State Publications Library received a total of 4,427 publications from state agencies in 1995. Of these, 2,088 were available in sufficient quantity to allow distribution to the 19 state publications depository libraries located throughout the state. The directory of state government databases was placed on the ACLIN menu, and is available to the public. Staff presented six workshops to assist library staff in making effective use of state publications.

StateLINC: State Library Information Network Connection

This program is intended to provide a convenient and cost-effective means to distribute consumer information from state agencies and statewide nonprofits to the public through libraries. StateLINC will result in greater awareness of information available at the state level and how to use it. We now have 130 libraries participating in StateLINC. In the first six months of operation, we have distributed 114 items through 4 mailings. Mailings will continue at two to three month intervals.

As state agencies and nonprofit organizations make their public access databases available on the ACLIN menu or as part of the State Homepage or various agency homepages, StateLINC will help to make the connection between those resources and the public, using print publications and knowledgeable staff at the local level.

Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA)

The LSCA program distributed over $ 825,000 in funds to 35 library projects last year.

Included in this were the NEAR project, ZAP project, a collaborative program between Horace Mann Middle School and Regis University, numerous telefax projects, funding of a large number of public library links with the Internet, continuing education programs such as SWRLSS's school, a program to meet the young adult needs in Ft. Collins, an adult literacy program in Canon City, a newspaper index, parenting information in Montrose, a couple of Spanish language materials projects, and several library construction projects.

Colorado Library Resource Sharing and Information Access Board (CLRSIAB)

The CLRSIAB completed a busy initial 1994-95 year, from implementing the FirstSearch Pilot Project to helping improve the ACLIN infrastructure.

Highlights of CLRSIAB subcommittee and task force activities:

✔ ACLIN Advisory Committee's development of the following documents: ACLIN Vision and Goals, Principles Supporting ACLIN, and Who Owns ACLIN?

✔ Colorado Consortium for Database Networking (CCDN) implemented the FirstSearch Pilot Project in February and a Board appointed negotiating team securing a statewide FirstSearch contract with OCLC in September.

✔ Colorado Library Card Advisory Committee reported a 5% increase in the number of public library participants and a 2% increase in the number of school participants from March 1994-March 1995.

✔ Collection Development Task Force (CDTF) began work on an ACLIN Collection Development Policy.

✔ Electronic Communications Task Force (ECTF) participated in ACLIN technical developments for the grant expansion project with a focus on : examining infrastructure alternatives, researching interface design, and assisting with technical staffing and equipment.

✔ Materials Delivery Task Force (MDT) implementation of a courier study with the consulting firm of Hemal & Wilson.

The CLRSIAB held its annual meeting in March at the new Denver Public Library. Approximately 70 participants received information regarding the activities of the Board's task forces and subcommittees. Participants also engaged in dynamic small group discussions focused on ideas for future CLRSIAB activities.

ACLIN (Access Colorado Library and Information Network)

Funding from the US Department of Education, US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Colorado legislature enabled ACLIN to plan initiatives to increase access, expand content, an develop and educate audiences in Colorado.

Those plans moved into implementation during this year with tangible results:

✔ setup of ACLIN's Unix platform, felix;

✔ design and development of ACLIN's Web site;

- ✔ finalization of the ACLIN Information Resource Development program;
- ✔ identification of state agency and community of interest databases suitable for mounting on or connecting to ACLIN;
- ✔ development of training materials and planning of SuperTrainer training sessions.

The team will begin implementation of infrastructure additions and expansion, identification of additional content sources for ACLIN, preliminary work under the public relations strategic plan, and exploration of the feasibility of a coordinated evaluation project.

Library Research Service

For the first time, the Library Research Service produced Statistics & Input-Output Measures reports and individual statistical profiles for public and academic libraries and school library media centers. This considerable feat was a first for any state library agency, raising the standard of library research and statistics support available from such agencies to a new level.

Of the state's 126 public library jurisdictions, 115—more than nine out of 10—report using the individual statistical profiles for planning, budgeting, public relations, and other purposes. Fourteen libraries credited these figures with helping them to win almost $395,000 in additional annual funding and to gain or defend almost 9.5 full-time equivalent staff positions (conservatively estimated position costs: $200,000).

The Library Research Service undertook almost two dozen projects at the request of individual libraries, groups of libraries, and organizations serving the state's library community, and were frequent speakers at state and national conferences.

Nearly two dozen issues of its popular *Fast Facts: Recent Statistics from the Library Research Service*, reporting survey results, were produced.

Institutional Library Service

82% of prison inmates were registered borrowers of their facility libraries. There were 315,272 inmate contacts (user visits, or inmates in segregation receiving delivery service), with the five largest facility libraries having average daily attendance ranging from 91 to 372. A total of 321,917 materials were checked out, up 2% from 1994 circulation.

4,381 new materials were purchased for institution libraries with $44,336 in state funds allocated through the State Library.

12 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant projects were implemented by institution libraries, at a total cost of $50,000.

The new San Carlos Correctional Facility in Pueblo opened in July. This is a facility for inmates with "special needs," which in most cases means inmates who are chronically mentally ill or developmentally disabled. The library is staffed by a librarian, who is building a collection that will meet the needs of this population.

The Colorado Mental Health Institute at Ft. Logan library used LSCA funds to purchase the Winnebago software and computers to automate the catalog and circulation functions. When the catalog is complete, the library's holdings will be made available throughout the hospital through a network.

The School for the Deaf and the Blind also used LSCA funds for automation. They purchased a site license for the LibraryWorks software for the Macintosh and installed a network that allowed the catalogs of their two libraries to be accessible at both locations.

The Metro State College Lab School at Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center, following State Library advice, was able to hire a library consultant to "reassemble" the library there in a new area, weed the collection, and make recommendations for purchase of new materials and future staffing. The youth at Lookout Mountain once again have access to library service.

Diana Reese, State Library Consultant/Correctional Librarian at the Arrowhead Correctional Facility, won two prestigious awards. The first was the Outstanding Educator award for the Dept. of Corrections, and the second was the Outstanding Support Staff award from the Colorado Correctional Association.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) decided during the year that they were no longer willing to pay for librarians in each of their facilities. Since most DOC librarians were State Library employees, funded through a contract with the DOC, the institutional library program was forced to lay off four long-time correctional librarians and to not fill another vacant professional position. The staff was replaced with library technicians, hired through a DOC contract with another agency. Four librarians, who are direct employees of the State Library, continue to work with the DOC libraries in a regional consulting capacity. The role of the State Library in managing prison libraries has been reduced to being "advisory."

Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL)

This year, the CTBL introduced the descriptive video service to patrons of the library. Descriptive video narrates to sight-impaired persons the action taking place in a full-length movie video. The clients are very pleased with the service, so CTBL will provide additional movies as they become available.

More than 85 clients are now using the interactive computer system at the library, still a local connection. CTBL hopes to connect to ACLIN soon. For long-distance patrons, the library has made email a possibility.

The library's volunteers, who provide over 14,000 hours of service each year, were honored at a recognition brunch.

Other activities included production of a catalog of recorded books that were narrated at the library, and a used book sale with the Friends group.

Office of Adult Education

The year's highlights include:

Awarded a LSCA grant to provide support for library and family literacy.

Designed and coordinated the Family Literacy Initiatives Survey of 72 adult basic education and Even Start programs, which identified the following facts: 993 families, including 1,419 parents and 1,561 children with a median age of 8 years, participated in family learning programs; 50% of collaborating partners provide funding indicating effective collaborations.

Designed and implemented the Colorado Adult Education for the Homeless Transition Project to assist local programs to develop collaborations and new sources of funding to replace federal funds and support eliminated by the Congress in the Rescissions Bill.

Continued over 40 active workplace initiatives.

Four adult basic education providers have begun their own marketing plans for advertising in the business community.

Training for the Certificates of Accomplishment, adult basic education, and English as a second language continues for providers who need an update of skills and those who are new to this process.

A new teacher and volunteer training opportunity is being offered to the practitioners. Five pilot sites have been selected to participate in a Practitioner Research project. Administrators, teachers, and volunteers may submit an action research question. If accepted, the researcher develops a theory/recommended solutions on the job and in the classroom, which will be published for adult education staff across Colorado.

Presented information at four regional meetings, entitled "Books, Books, Books."

Responded to 201 reference/research requests; circulated 1,038 items to teachers and volunteers in adult basic skills and literacy programs.

Colorado Refugee ESL program (CRESL) provided intensive instruction to 654 refugees in classes at Emily Griffith Opportunity School. CRESL in-home tutoring program provided volunteer tutors for 164 refugees, and provided 5,314 hours of instruction to their students. CRESL volunteers provided 7,663 hours of service. Colorado became the home for 1,158 refugees.

Standards & Assessment Resource Bank

The Resource Bank is designed to support implementation of standards-based education in local Colorado school districts.

In March the online version of the Resource Bank became available on the Pikes Peak Library System — with free local access through ACLIN, MARMOT and CARL, as well as the Internet. The online Resource Bank was updated and expanded several times during 1995, and currently includes the full text of the adopted Colorado State Model Content Standards, the Colorado Standards-Based Education Law and public information from school districts, CDE and Goals 2000, as well as a directory of other resources on standards-based education.

The CD-ROM version of the Resource Bank was completed and will be available for purchase on a subscription basis in early 1996. The CD-ROM provides more extensive information (more than 200 full-text documents, graphics and videos) in a user-friendly format that requires little training. It is compatible with both Macintosh and Windows systems and will be updated twice a year.

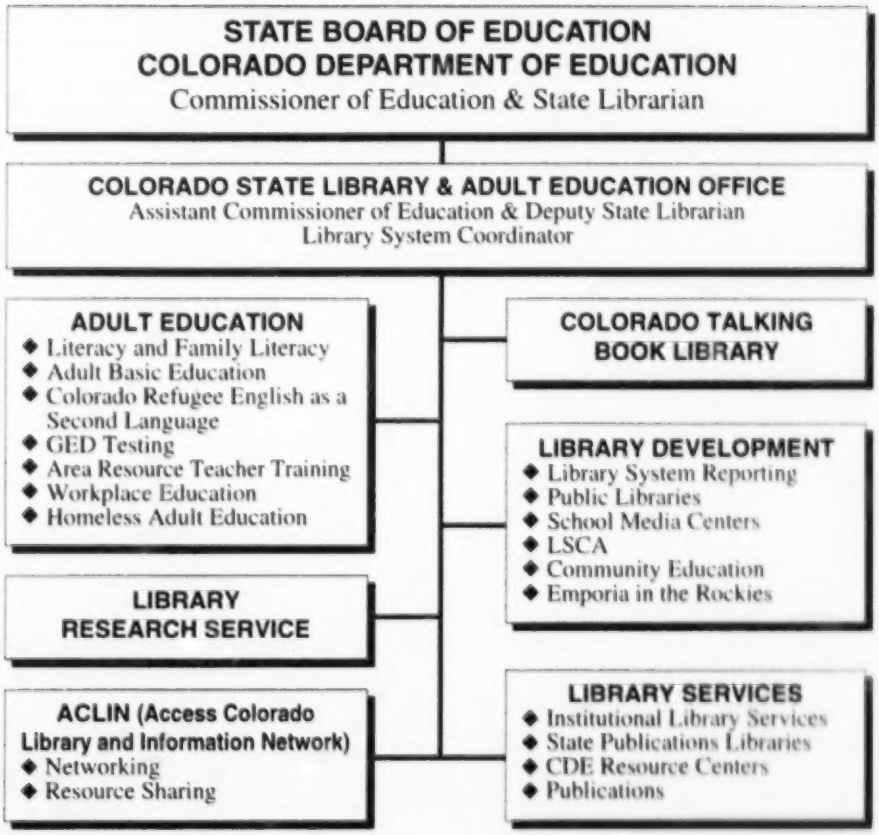
1995-1996 General Funds Summary

LIBRARY PROGRAM ITEM	State Budgeted Funds
Personal Services	$972,220
Operating/Travel	298,390
Library Materials	63,899
Regional Systems	1,774,357
County Equalization	134,114
Colorado Resource Center	1,200,178
Payment for Lending	162,006
Total	$4,605,164

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM ITEM	State Budgeted Funds
Personal Services	$51,686
Operating Expenses	9,290
Travel	832
Total	$61,799

These budgets do not include federal funds.

ORGANIZATION CHART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◆ Adult Basic Education
◆ Colorado Refugee English as a Second Language
◆ GED Testing
◆ Area Resource Teacher Training
◆ Workplace Education
◆ Homeless Adult Education
LIBRARY RESEARCH SERVICE
ACLIN (Access Colorado Library and Information Network)
◆ Networking
◆ Resource Sharing
COLORADO TALKING BOOK LIBRARY
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT
◆ Library System Reporting
◆ Public Libraries
◆ School Media Centers
◆ LSCA
◆ Community Education
◆ Emporia in the Rockies
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◆ Institutional Library Services
◆ State Publications Libraries
◆ CDE Resource Centers
◆ Publications

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